

## Steven Pinker

Date of Birth: September 18, 1954. US & Canada Citizen.

### Education

Diploma of College Studies, Dawson College, 1973.  
Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honors in Psychology), McGill University, 1976.  
Doctor of Philosophy (Experimental Psychology), Harvard University, 1979.  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Cognitive Science, MIT, 1979-80.

### Academic Positions

2003- Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology, Harvard University  
1982-2003 Asst., Assoc., Peter de Florez Professor, Dept. of Brain & Cognitive Sciences, MIT  
1981-1982 Asst. Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Stanford University  
1980-1981 Asst. Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Harvard University

### Selected Honors and Awards

Humanist of the Year, Humanists International, 2021  
Nora and Ted Sterling Prize in Support of Controversy, 2019  
Global Leadership Award, Global Canada, 2019  
Carl Sagan Award for Increasing the Public Appreciation of Science, Council of Scientific Society Presidents, 2018  
Human Roots Award, Monrepos Archaeological Research Center, Germany, 2018  
Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award in Cultural Humanism, Harvard Humanist Hub, 2018  
Carl Sagan Award, Carnegie-Mellon Humanism Initiative, 2016  
William James Award for Lifetime Achievement, Association for Psychological Science, 2016.  
Ramon y Cajal Award, International Neuropsychiatric Association, 2013  
Cundill Recognition of Excellence Prize in History, 2012 (for *The Better Angels of Our Nature*)  
George A. Miller Prize, Cognitive Neuroscience Society, 2010.  
Honorary President, Canadian Psychological Association, 2008.  
Humanist of the Year, American Humanist Association, 2006.  
Henry Dale Prize, The Royal Institution of Great Britain, 2004.  
Finalist, Pulitzer Prize, 2003 (*The Blank Slate*), 1998 (*How the Mind Works*)  
William James Book Prize, American Psychological Association, 2003, 1999, 1995.  
Public Interest Award, Linguistics Society of America, 1997.  
School of Science Teaching Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, MIT, 2001.  
Troland Research Award, National Academy of Sciences, April 1993.  
Graduate Student Council Teaching Award, MIT, 1986.  
Boyd R. McCandless Young Scientist Award, American Psychological Association, 1986.  
Distinguished Early Career Contribution, American Psychological Association, 1984.

### Elected Fellowships in Scholarly Societies

National Academy of Sciences; Linguistic Society of America; The American Academy of Political and Social Science; American Academy of Arts and Sciences; American Psychological Association; Association for Psychological Science; American Association for the Advancement of Science.

### **Honorary Doctorates**

McGill University, 1999; Tel Aviv University, 2003; University of Surrey, 2003; University of Newcastle, 2005; Albion College, 2007; University of Tromsø, 2008; Mt. Allison University, 2012; Simon Fraser University, 2014; University of Reading, 2017; University of Bucaramanga, 2021.

### **Selected Professional Activities**

Chair, Usage Panel, *American Heritage Dictionary*, 2008-2018.  
Jury, Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Excellence in the Literature of Diversity, 2002- .  
Executive Associate Editor, *Cognition: International Journal of Cognitive Science*, 1985-2006.

### **Books**

*Language Learnability and Language Development*. Harvard University Press, 1984. New ed. 1996.  
*Learnability and Cognition: The Acquisition of Argument Structure*. MIT Press, 1989. New ed. 2013.  
*The Language Instinct*. HarperCollins, 1994. New ed. 2007.  
*How the Mind Works*. Norton, 1997. New ed. 2009.  
*Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language*. HarperCollins, 1999. New ed. 2011.  
*The Blank Slate: The Modern Denial of Human Nature*. Penguin, 2002. New ed. 2016  
*The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature*. Penguin, 2007.  
*The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*. Penguin, 2011.  
*The Sense of Style: A Writing Manual for the 21st Century*. Penguin, 2014.  
*Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress*, Penguin, 2018.  
*Rationality: What It Is, Why It Seems Scarce, Why It Matters*, Penguin, 2021.

### **Selected Publications in Scholarly Journals**

Pinker, S. (1979). Formal models of language learning. *Cognition*, 7, 217-283.  
Pinker, S. (1980). Mental imagery and the third dimension. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 109, 254-371.  
Pinker, S. (1984). Visual cognition: an introduction. *Cognition*, 18, 1-63.  
Downing, C. J. & Pinker, S. (1985). The spatial structure of visual attention. In M. Posner and O. Marin (Eds.), *Attention and Performance XI: Mechanisms of attention and visual search*. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.  
Pinker, S. & Prince, A. (1988) On language and connectionism: Analysis of a parallel distributed processing model of language acquisition. *Cognition*, 28, 73-193.  
Tarr, M. J. & Pinker, S. (1989) Mental rotation and orientation-dependence in shape recognition. *Cognitive Psychology*, 21, 233-282.  
Pinker, S. & Bloom, P. (1990) Natural language and natural selection. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 13, 707-784.  
Tarr, M. J. & Pinker, S. (1990) When does human object recognition use a viewer-centered reference frame? *Psychological Science*, 1, 253-256.

- Gropen, J., Pinker, S., Hollander, M., & Goldberg, R. (1991) Syntax and semantics in the acquisition of locative verbs. *Journal of Child Language*, 18, 115-151.
- Pinker, S. (1991) Rules of language. *Science*, 253, 530-535.
- Gropen, J., Pinker, S., Hollander, J., & Goldberg, R. (1991) Affectedness and direct objects: The role of lexical semantics in the acquisition of verb argument structure. *Cognition*, 41, 153-195.
- Marcus, G., Pinker, S., Ullman, M., Hollander, M., Rosen, T. J. & Xu, F. (1992) Overregularization in language acquisition. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, 57 (4, Serial No. 228).
- Prasada, S. & Pinker, S. (1993) Generalizations of regular and irregular morphology. *Language and Cognitive Processes*, 8, 1-56.
- Cave, K. R., Pinker, S., Giorgi, L., Thomas, C., Heller, L., Wolfe, J. M., & Lin, H. (1994) The representation of location in visual images. *Cognitive Psychology*, 26, 1-32.
- Pinker, S. (1994) How could a child use verb syntax to learn verb semantics? *Lingua*, 92, 377-410.
- Marcus, G. F., Brinkmann, U., Clahsen, H., Wiese, R., & Pinker, S. (1995) German inflection: The exception that proves the rule. *Cognitive Psychology*, 29, 189-256.
- Ullman, M., Corkin, S., Coppola, M., Hickok, G., Growdon, J. H., Koroshetz, W. J., & Pinker, S. (1997) A neural dissociation within language: Evidence that the mental dictionary is part of declarative memory, and that grammatical rules are processed by the procedural system. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 9, 289-299.
- Berent, I., Pinker, S., & Shimron, J. (1999) Default nominal inflection in Hebrew: Evidence for mental variables. *Cognition* 72, 1-44.
- Pinker, S. & Ullman, M. (2002) The past and future of the past tense. *Trends in Cognitive Science*, 6, 456-463.
- Berent, I., Pinker, S., & Shimron, J. (2002) The nature of regularity and irregularity: Evidence from Hebrew nominal inflection. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*, 31(5), 459-502
- Pinker, S. & Jackendoff, R. (2005) What's special about the human language faculty? *Cognition*, 95, 201-236.
- Berent, I., Pinker, S., Tzelgov, J., Bibi, U., & Goldfarb, L. (2005) Computation of semantic number from morphological information. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 53, 342-358.
- Sahin, N., Pinker, & Halgren, E. (2006) Abstract grammatical processing of nouns and verbs in Broca's Area: Evidence from fMRI. *Cortex*, 42, 540-562.
- Berent, I., Pinker, S., & Ghavami, G. (2007) The dislike of regular plurals in compounds: Phonological familiarity or morphological constraint? *The Mental Lexicon*, 2, 129-181.
- Pinker, S. (2007) The evolutionary social psychology of off-record indirect speech acts. *Intercultural Pragmatics*, 4(4), 437-461.
- Pinker, S., Nowak, M., A. & Lee, J. J. (2008). The logic of indirect speech. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA*, 105(3), 833-838.
- Sahin, N. T., Pinker, S., Cash, S. S., Schomer, D., & Halgren, E. (2009) Sequential processing of lexical, grammatical, and articulatory information within Broca's area. *Science*, 326, 445-449.
- Huang, Y.-T. & Pinker, S. (2010) Lexical semantics and irregular inflection. *Language and Cognitive Processes*, 25, 1-51.
- Lee, J. J., & Pinker, S. (2010) Rationales for indirect speech: The theory of the strategic speaker. *Psychological Review*, 117, 785-807.

- Pinker, S. (2010) The cognitive niche: Coevolution of intelligence, sociality, and language. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA*, 107, 8893-899.
- Michel, J.-B., Shen, Y. K., Aiden, A. P., Veres, A., Gray, M. K., The\_Google\_Books\_Team, Pickett, J. P., Hoiberg, D., Clancy, D., Norvig, P., Orwant, J., Pinker, S., Nowak, M., & Lieberman-Aiden, E. (2011). Quantitative analysis of culture using millions of digitized books. *Science*, 331, 176-182.
- Pinker, S. (2011) Taming the devil within us. *Nature*, Oct. 20, 309–311.
- Pinker, S. (2011). Indirect speech, politeness, deniability, and relationship negotiation. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 43, 2866-2868.
- Pinker, S. (2013) The decline of war and conceptions of human nature. *International Studies Review*, 15, 5-10.
- Chabris, C., Lee, J. J., Benjamin, D. J., Beauchamp, J. P, Glaeser, E. L, Bosrt, G., Pinker, S., & Laibson, D. I. (2013) Why is it hard to find genes that are associated with social science traits? Theoretical and empirical considerations. *American Journal of Public Health*, 152-166.
- van der Lely, H. K., & Pinker, S. (2014) The biological basis of language: Insight from developmental grammatical impairments. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 18, 586-595.
- Reed, L., I., DeScioli, P. & Pinker, S. (2014) The commitment function of angry facial expressions. *Psychological Science*, 25, 1511-1517.
- Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., Haque, O. S., & Pinker, S. (2014) The psychology of coordination and common knowledge. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 107, 657-676.
- Rietveld, et al. (2014) Common genetic variants associated with cognitive performance identified using the proxy-phenotype method. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- Ronen, S., Gonçalves, B., Hu, K. Z., Vespignani, A., Pinker, S., & Hidalgo, C. A. (2014) Links that speak: The global language network and its association with global fame. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 111(52) E5616-E5622.
- Thomas, K. A., De Freitas, J., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (2016) Recursive mentalizing and common knowledge in the bystander effect. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 145, 621-629.
- De Freitas, J., DeScioli, P., Nemirow, J., Massenkoff, M., & Pinker, S. (2017) Kill or die: Moral judgment alters linguistic coding of causality. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 43(8), 1173-1182.
- Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P. & Pinker, S. (2018) Common knowledge, coordination, and the logic of self-conscious emotions. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 39(2), 179-190.
- Hartshorne, J. K., Tenenbaum, J. B., & Pinker, S., (2018) A critical period for second language acquisition: Evidence from 2/3 million English speakers. *Cognition*, 77 (2018): 263-277.
- De Freitas, J., DeScioli, P., Thomas, K. A., & Pinker, S. (2018) Maimonides' Ladder: States of mutual knowledge and the perception of charitability. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 148(1), 158-173.
- Mehr, S. et al. (2019) Universality and diversity in human song. *Science*, 366, 970.